

Northern Kentucky University Special Initiative Academic Transformation Project

What is Northern Kentucky University's Academic Transformation project?

The program supports a university-wide initiative aimed at transforming the way courses are designed and taught at Northern Kentucky University in order to reduce costs, expand capacity, and improve student learning and success. Quite different from an updating or revision of courses, this program is modeled after the highly successful PEW-funded *Program in Course Redesign*, that uses technology as an important tool in the redesign of courses.

Why is a program like this needed?

Colleges and universities must explore new approaches to teaching and learning if they are to remain viable and continue to offer quality education in this time of limited resources. NKU's Academic Transformation project will reduce costs per student, increase capacity, improve completion rates, reduce space requirements, strengthen quality, and engage students more fully in research and community-based learning.

How will the program work?

The first academic courses that will be eligible for the program are lower-division programs with large enrollments and a high percentage of students who perform poorly (fail, withdraw, or earn less than C-). Twenty courses spread across the disciplines fit these criteria and will comprise the pool from which the courses will be selected in the first few years. The process will begin with a Summer Academy, a six-week program in which faculty learn about the academic transformation process (including the use of the newest technology for undergraduate education), course enhancement through Web-based content, the use of peer tutors, online assessments, how to recognize and nurture different learning styles, and community-based learning activities.

How will the program save money?

To ensure the transformed courses lead to lower costs per student, the program will employ new uses of technology to reduce the faculty costs associated with the course. Strategies include online tutorials, automated assessment, sophisticated course management systems, use of existing resources, and using the least costly personnel appropriate to the task.

What is the Council's request?

The Council seeks \$300,000 of recurring funds in FY 2007-08 to support Northern Kentucky University's Academic Transformation initiative.



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